

Wellington Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1944.

By R. De Veil King, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1944.

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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1944.

Area (in Acres)	37,911
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year 1944	..	8,187
Census Population, 1931	.. .. .	7,525
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate		
Books on 31st December, 1944	.. .. .	2,232
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1944	.. .. .	£30,259
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st Dec., 1944		£132-3s.-10d.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:—	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Legitimate	122	58	64	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the
Illegitimate	9	6	3	estimated resident population
	—	—	—	16.00
	131	64	67	
	—	—	—	

Still Births—Total .. 2.

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births .. 15.04

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 0.36

Deaths—Total .. 109.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 13.31

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—Total .. Nil.

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Births.</i>
From Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
From other Maternal causes	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—Total .. 2

Legitimate	.. .. .	1
Illegitimate	.. .. .	1
Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	15.26
Rate for Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate		
Live Births	.. .. .	7.63
Rate for Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate		
Live Births	.. .. .	7.63

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.. .. .	18
,, Measles (all ages)	.. .. .	Nil
,, Whooping-cough (all ages)	.. .. .	1
,, Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	.. .. .	1

Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—

Live Births per 1,000 Civilian Population	..	17.6
Still Births do. do.	..	0.50
Deaths from all causes do.	..	11.6
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	.. ..	1.93
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	.. ..	46.0

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1944.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers.....	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever.....	—	—	—
Scarlet fever.....	—	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	—	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ..	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis.....	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	1	2	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
Cancer of breast	—	—	—
Cancer of all other sites	7	6	13
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	15	19
Heart disease	13	13	26
Other disease of the circulatory system....	5	3	8
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Other respiratory disease	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive disease	1	—	1
Nephritis	3	2	5
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	—	—	—
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	1	—	1
Suicide	—	—	—
Road traffic accidents.....	—	3	3
Other violent causes	1	1	2
All other causes	4	6	10
All causes—Total	52	57	109

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1944.

Two infants under one year of age died during the year from the following complaints:—Spina Befida (a congenital malformation) under one week of age, and Gastro-enteritis, aged eight months.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA. *Hospitals.*

Infectious Diseases.—Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton—Wellington Rural District is one of the contributory authorities. Home Isolation is carried out whenever the home conditions are satisfactory. Some cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital but maintained by the Somerset County Council. Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are similarly admitted to the Isolation Hospital and maintained by the County Council.

Tuberculosis.—Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County Scheme for treatment. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for Pulmonary cases. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium and to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-Tubercular children and children with Tubercular Glands are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

Small-Pox.—Provision for the accommodation of cases of Small-pox is made by the County Council at its Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

General Medical and Surgical.—The district is served by the Cottage Hospital in Wellington, and there are in-patient and out-patient facilities at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital in Taunton and at the Hospitals in Bristol.

Chronic Sick.—These are received into the Public Assistance Institutions in Wellington and Taunton.

Mental Sick.—Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Cotford, near Taunton.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis.—Clinics for this disease are held in Taunton as part of the County Tuberculosis Scheme and are attended by a County Tuberculosis Officer. In conjunction with the Clinics there is an After Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Diseases.—A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in Wellington Urban District, to which a considerable number of women from the Rural District is admitted for confinement. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.—The County Laboratory is situated in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for the general bacteriological examinations of swabs, blood, sputum, etc.; this service is available also to the Doctors practising in the District, without charge. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents, etc.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Wellington and District Ambulance Society, under the auspices of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, was inaugurated in 1930. The Ambulance Service is well organised and adequate for the areas of Wellington Urban and Rural Districts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

There have been no changes during the past year.

The Council's Engineers have prepared a post-war water supply scheme to cover certain areas of the District and at the same time to augment the Milverton and Wiveliscombe existing public water supplies by taking in additional springs.

Parishes or areas covered are:—

Bathealton through part of Stawley to Ashbrittle and south-east to Tracebridge.

Bathealton to Spring Grove crossway then north to augment Wiveliscombe supply and include Langley and Ford.

Spring Grove and north east and east to Buttsway to augment Milverton supply and further east to supply Houndsmoor and on to East Nynhehead.

East Nynhehead northwards to Oake and on to Taunton—Milverton main road where it turns west to supply Hillcommon with possible extension to Preston Bowyer.

Hillfarrance would be supplied from the Oake main.
Spring Grove crossway to Langford Budville and on to Thorne St. Margaret and White Ball. The supply could then be taken to Sampford Arundel—Sampford Moor—Pleamore Cross—Wrangway, and Ford Street.

A scheme is also included for Chipstable.

The following Summary shows in alphabetical order, the present water supplies in the District by Parishes, giving their acreage and population according to the Census of 1931.

The Public main water supplies in the District are chlorinated and analyses taken at regular intervals throughout the year have been found to be satisfactory.

ASHBRITTLE. 2158 Acres. Population 220.

Pump on Village Green. Remainder by wells.

BATHEALTON. 2598 Acres. 179.

Pump to well near Rectory. Remainder by wells and springs.

BRADFORD. 1814 Acres. 393.

Piped supply through Parish from Taunton Corporation mains.

CHIPSTABLE. 2455 Acres. 323.

Two standpipes in Village from spring and well. Remainder wells and springs.

FITZHEAD. 1247 Acres. 194.

Piped supply from Taunton R.D. mains at Halse. All but 3 houses are supplied from this main.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE. 2234 Acres. 440.

Privately owned water supply from 3 supplies, all from covered collecting tanks and piped to Village.

Owing to shortage it is necessary to haul water to this Village during the summer.

MILVERTON. 3465 Acres. 1185.

Piped supply from covered reservoir at Furbers Well. Yield 6/12/34 8,600 G.P.D. normal 30,000 G.P.D.

Two springs below Furbers Well. Yield 6/12/34 3,400 G.P.D. normal 40,000 G.P.D.

Pumped to reservoir by Diesel 3 h.p. Lister Engine with Easton & Johnson Treble Ram Pump 2,500 G.P.H. or Lister 2½ h.p. Petrol Engine 1,400 G.P.H. Borehole at Olands feeds into 6in. trunk main by means of Beresford Submersible Electric Pump with booster pump at ground level. Output, 1,400 G.P.H.

It was not necessary during the summer to shut off the water supply during the night, but considerable pumping was necessary.

NYNEHEAD. 1706 Acres. 288.

16 Council houses supplied through pipes by storage tank and windmill over well.

Private piped supply and private wells.

OAKE. 1754 Acres. 413.

Supplied by wells and springs.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL. 1216 Acres. 323.

Sampford Moor is supplied by spring from covered collecting tank and piped to hamlet.

Remainder springs and wells.

Owing to shortage it was necessary to haul water to several areas in this Parish during the summer of 1944.

STAWLEY. 2663 Acres. 302.

Supplied by springs and wells.

THORNE ST. MARGARET. 824 Acres. 89.

Supplied by springs and wells.

WEST BUCKLAND. 3739 Acres. 681.

Blackmoor is supplied by spring from covered collecting tank and piped to hamlet.

West Buckland village and district has piped supply from Taunton Corporation mains.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT. 2933 Acres. 504.

Holywell Lake is supplied by public spring with shute. Remainder is by wells and springs.

WIVELISCOMBE. 201 Acres. 1262.

Water is obtained from springs at Withycombe, gathering ground to a covered reservoir and piped to the Town. Yield 11/9/34, 22,500 G.P.D. Spring over 100,000 G.P.D. Capacity of reservoir 36,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated, the plant being a Wallace and Tiernan Automatic Chlorometer in duplicate. Water is obtained from a borehole 285 feet deep and pumped by a 15 h.p. Electric Motor direct mounted on a verticle spindle deep well turbine pump 14 stages at bottom 125 feet down 4 stages booster pump at top. (Mirrlees Watson Engineering Co. Ltd., Glasgow),

Delivers 5 to 6 thousand gallons per hour with 4in. service main from reservoir.

This is not duplicated.

It was necessary for a short period to shut off the water supply during the night.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT. 5904 Acres. 744.

Langley Cross and Lower Langley supplied by spring from covered collecting tank and piped to Hamlet.

Remainder springs and wells.

Sewage Disposal.

There have been no changes during the year.

The Council's Engineers have prepared a sewage scheme for Holywell Lake which the Council has approved. Tenders have been advertised for, and the Council have accepted that of Messrs. Reed & Mallick, Salisbury, at £982-5s.-2d. This has been approved by the Ministry of Health.

The Council's Engineers have prepared a sewerage and sewage disposal report for the District, which has been approved by the Council. The report divides the District into three categories.

1. Existing sewage works needing enlarging or modernising.
2. Complete sewage schemes desirable
 - (a) including joint schemes and
 - (b) individual schemes.
3. Various areas where minimum schemes are required.

The existing Sewerage and Sewage Disposal of the District is here shown tabulated by Parishes:—

ASHBRITTLE. 2,158 Acres. Population 220.

Septic tank to 4 Council houses in Rectory Road.

BATHEALTON. 2598 Acres. 1794.

Privately owned septic tanks.

BRADFORD. 1814 Acres. 393.

Most of the sewage collects at Gigley's pit near roadside leading to Hele.

Septic tank for 8 Council Houses at Tone Green.

Hamlet at Heatherton where a row of bungalows discharge into septic tank with filter, and second collecting tank for 4 houses near crossway at Heatherton Park.

CHIPSTABLE. 3455 Acres. 323.

Septic tank to 4 Council houses at Waterrow.

FITZHEAD. 1247 Acres. 194.

Septic tanks at 2 Council Housing Sites of 6 and 4 houses respectively. Part of Village sewage runs along roadside.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE. 2234 Acres. 440.

Septic tank with filter to 8 Council houses.

Most of sewage collects in tanks or is land treated in large field at rear of houses.

MILVERTON. 3465 Acres. 1185.

Two settlement tanks with scumboards—total capacity about 20,000 gallons—and effluent then passes over 7 weirs through about 700 yards of open land treatment to Hillfarrance brook.

NYNEHEAD. 1706 Acres. 288.

Hartley's system for 16 Council houses.

Lower Nynehead sewage passes through Orchard in open gutter; other properties have private septic tanks.

OAKE. 1754 Acres. 413.

Septic tank to 4 Council Houses.

Hamlet with no drainage system, but some private tanks.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL. 1216 Acres. 323.

Septic tank to 4 Council houses.

Houses with private tanks.

STAWLEY. 2663 Acres. 302.

Private tanks to houses.

THORNE ST. MARGARET. 824 Acres. 89.

Private tanks to houses.

WEST BUCKLAND. 3739 Acres. 681.

Septic tank for 2 Council House Estates of 4 each. Sewage discharges in open gutter in field at rear of School.

Hartleys system for Ham and Budgetts Cross Council Housing Sites (24 altogether).

WELLINGTON WITHOUT. 2933 Acres. 504.

No proper drainage system. Council has accepted a Tender of Messrs. Reed & Mallick, Salisbury, at £982. 5s. 2d. for Sewerage Scheme at Holywell Lake. This has been approved by the Ministry of Health.

WIVELISCOIBE. 201 Acres. 1262.

Hillsmoor. Consists of 4 settlement tanks each of 25,000 gallons capacity used in series. Sewage is screened and the grit first removed. Effluent then passes over grass land.

Style. Two settlement tanks, one of which is reserved for storm water. Sewage is screened and grit removed. Capacity of tanks is 11,500 gallons each. Effluent passes over 10 weirs and thence over grass land.

WIVELISCOMBE, WITHOUT. 5904 Acres. 744.

Septic tanks at Langley Cross for 16 Council Houses and at Croford for 4 Council Houses.

Collecting tank at Langley Orchard for Langley and Langley Marsh. Effluent discharges at roadside.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collections are now undertaken by the Council in the following areas:—

Weekly—Wiveliscombe—Extended quarterly to Heathstock. Milverton (alternate weeks salvage and house refuse extended quarterly to Preston and Hillcommon).

Quarterly—Ashbrittle, Bathealton, Bradford, Fitzhead, Langford Budville, Nynhead, Sampford Arundel, Wellington Without, West Buckland.

SALVAGE.

A total of 98 tons 6 cwts. has been salvaged during the year by the Council and Toc H., the cash value of this being £578, and made up as follows:—

	<i>District Council.</i>	<i>Toc H.</i>
	<i>Tons.Cwt.</i>	<i>Tons.Cwt.</i>
Waste Paper	25 19	30 —
Rags, Sacking, etc. ..	2 1	1 19
Tins and Iron	26 9	— —
Bones	3 19	2 2
Non-ferrous Metals ..	— 2	— —
Rubber	4 —	1 5
Jam Jars	— 9	— —
Mis.	— 1	— —
	<hr/> 63 0 <hr/>	<hr/> 35 6 <hr/>

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is a Public Swimming Bath at Wiveliscombe Recreation Ground. It is fed by spring water from Withycombe and Coate. These sources are highly polluted so that chlorination of the water is necessary before it enters the Swimming Bath. Four samples were taken, the first two being unsatisfactory. Repeat samples were taken at the Inlet and Outlet ends of Bath. The inlet sample was fairly satisfactory but the outlet sample was not up to the same standard. The Bath was then closed for the rest of the season.

Schools.

The sanitary conditions and water supply of Holywell Lake Schools is unsatisfactory. This School is now closed. The District Council are laying a new sewer and disposal works in this area.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspector:—

Number and nature of Inspections during the year 1944:—

Dwelling-houses	..	..	..	51
Slaughter-houses	..	..	..	2
Bakehouses	..	..	..	23
Other Premises where food is prepared or sold				11
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	..			56
Places where animals are kept (other than Cowsheds)	..	..	..	—
Infectious Diseases Enquiries and Disinfections				28
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	..			15
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	91

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	..	..	..	48
Statutory Notices	..	..	..	4

Result of Service of Notices:—

Total Notices complied with	..	..	..	37
Notices standing over at the end of 1944	..			15

Shops and Offices. Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of shops, 6 visits have been made.

Camping Sites. The Council has issued one licence in respect of a camping site appearing to fall within Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement. No action has been found necessary to be taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There is one at Wiveliscombe and it was closed for reasons given in another part of this Report.

Eradication of Bed-bugs. No Council or other houses have been found to be infested with bed-bugs.

Offensive Trades. There is no offensive trade in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Public Water Supplies. The five public water supplies have been examined quarterly and have been found on each occasion to be satisfactory.

Bakehouses. There are seven Bakehouses in the District, 23 inspections were made to them. One of them has been found to be most unsatisfactory. Six of the bakehouses now draw their water supply from public mains.

Meat Supply. Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, the slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughterhouses. As none of these are in the District, meat sold at the Butcher's Shops has been inspected before sale to the consumer. Normally there are 8 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the District.

The following foods have been surrendered, condemned and disposed of in accordance with present war-time regulations:—Herrings and baked beans, 23 tins; cereals, 54lbs.; mutton, 63 lbs.; and frozen meat, 1,323 lbs.

Milk Supply. 56 inspections were made to 198 registered premises in the area. 85 samples of milk were taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist. The analytical results were as follows:—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken.</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Percentage unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested	41	32	9	21.95
Accredited	35	27	8	22.85
Examined for tubercle bacilli	5	4	1	20.00
Pasteurised	4	3	1	25.00
Totals ..	85	66	19	22.35

Tuberculosis Order, 1925. No cows had to be slaughtered during the year under this Order.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of Producers on the Register .. 198

Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—

(a) Distributors only 2

(b) Distributors who are also Producers 86

Milk (Special Designated) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Under these Orders, the following Licences are in force in the District and issued by the County Council:—

Licences: Tuberculin tested producers ..	10
Accredited producers	9

In addition, there is one Supplementary Licence issued by the Local Authority for the Sale of Pasteurised Milk in the District, but which is not produced therein.

HOUSING.

There have been 2 cases of overcrowding during the year and both abated. At the end of the year there were only 473 Evacuees of all categories in the District.

Four dwellings condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, are being occupied and covered by Regulation 68A. Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.

Four dwellings in Confirmed Clearance Areas were demolished by the Council, as they were becoming dilapidated and dangerous.

The Council have had under consideration the post-war Housing Programme, which is 48 in the first year, and 102 in the second year—making a total of 150. Distribution will be as follows:—

Chipstable	4
Langford Budville	8
Milverton—Courtfield	10
Star Close	20
	— 30
Oake	20
Sampford Arundel	8
West Buckland—Ham	10
Crown Inn	10
	— 20
Wiveliscombe	50
	—
Total	140

plus 10 on site to be decided.

There is a great demand for houses in the District; this is evident by the large number of applications received for any Council House becoming vacant.

The Council converted Court House (situated above the British Restaurant), Wiveliscombe, into 5 flats, under Circular 2871.

Housing Survey.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 64/44—Rural Housing, the survey of all houses up to and including £18 Rateable has been commenced.

Sixty-seven houses have been inspected and classified as follows:—

HOUSING ACT, 1936.			
<u>Sec. 9.</u>	<u>Sec. 11.</u>	<u>Sec. 25.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
23	25	19	67

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

On the 31st December, 1944, the following were billeted in the District:—

Unaccompanied children ..	133
Accompanied children ..	90
Mothers, Helpers and Teachers	128
	<hr/>
	351
	<hr/>

In requisitioned cottages:—

Mothers	23
Accompanied children ..	55
Adults and Teachers ..	44
	<hr/>
Total	122
	<hr/>

Total billeted in the District—473.

Thirty-one cottages are under Requisition Orders by authority of the Defence Regulations.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following gives the number of Notifications received for Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), and the notification rates compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole, per 1,000 civilian population:—

<i>Diseases.</i>	<i>No. of Notifications received.</i>	<i>Notification Rates for Wellington R.D. Eng. & Wales</i>	
Scarlet Fever	24	2.93	2.40
Diphtheria (non-civilian)	1	0.12	0.58
Measles	3	0.36	4.16
Whooping-cough	1	0.12	2.49
Erysipelas	2	0.24	0.29

Most of the cases of Scarlet Fever were in connection with the Public Elementary School in Wiveliscombe. This School was closed for a short period by order of the County Council, but this action did not stop the continuance of the outbreak.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. Immunisation against Diphtheria is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the County Council and by general Medical Practitioners in the District. The Immunisation Scheme commenced in Wellington Rural District during 1941. The following figures show how the Scheme is progressing, but relate only to Somerset children and not Government Evacuees:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Pre-School Children Age group 0-4</i>	<i>School Children Age group 5-14.</i>
1941	247	674
1942	106	131
1943	80	14
1944	85	24

Estimates of the child population at mid-year, 1944, in the above age groups show that, approximately, a further 9.22 per cent. of pre-school children, and 2.2 per cent. of school children were immunised during 1944.

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

The following form of return is required by the Ministry of Health:—

<i>Age Periods.</i>	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	1	2	2	1	1	—	1	—

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the milk trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The Local Authority have no special arrangement of their own under Sec. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention and treatment of Blindness. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which used to be a potent cause of blindness, are promptly notified to the applicable Department of the County Council and so obtain early treatment and if necessary in the Isolation Hospital.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1944.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The work at the Hospital during the year may be described as normal. There is still the continuing difficulty of obtaining suitable Nursing and Domestic Staffs, but the position has been ably met by the Matron and the willing work of her Staffs so that the patients have not suffered in any way from lack of attention.

There were 288 admissions against 301 in 1943, but 8919 patient days against 8847. As there were 39 admissions for Puerperal Sepsis and Septic Abortion against 35 in 1943, the increased number of patient days despite fewer total admissions may be partly accounted for because these cases are usually very ill and require a long period of careful nursing.

There were 6 deaths during the year compared with 4 during the previous year, due to:—Diphtheria 1, Acute Infective Summer Diarrhoea of Infants 2, Purpura Haemorrhagica 1, the probable cause of which was fulminating Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (died 30 minutes after admission), Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 1, Staphylococcal Meningitis 1.

15 operations were performed against 3 in 1943. They were:—

Caesarian Section combined with Hysterectomy 1.

Appendicectomy 3 (complicated with Measles, Mumps and Diphtheria respectively).

Breast Abscess 2.

Tracheotomy 1.

These were all performed by the Board's Surgeon, Mr. Nicholson-Lailey.

Tonsillectomy 7 (by Mr. Graeme Allen 6 and Mr. Ellis 1).

Extraction of teeth for Acute Ulcerative Gingivitis by Mr. Garrett.

The Theatre was also used for 62 Artificial Pneumothorax Refills in connection with cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were 46 admissions to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium. 27 were discharged, and 18 died. The total patient days for these cases being 7,239.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. DE V. KING,

February, 1945.

Medical Superintendent.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL BOARD.

TABULATED STATEMENT OF CASES Etc., FOR YEAR, 1944.

[illegible]

